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Message Text

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44-S
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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---------- 112787
O 031537Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 5579

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

DEPT INFORM AMBASSADOR THEBERGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, OCON, OVIP, NU, XK
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INVITATION TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO ATTEND
MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING IN MANAGUA

REF: (A) MANAGUA 5520 (B) MANAGUA 5559
(C) MANAGUA 5545 (D) MANAGUA 5546

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM GON OFFICIALLY INVITING US SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO ATTEND, AS AN OBSERVER, THE 24 TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SANITATION (CIRSA). THIS MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE FROM ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, PANAMA AND MEXICO WILL BE HELD IN MANAGUA ON DECEMBER 14 AND 15.

2. NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SENGELMANN CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF DECEMBER 2 THAT THAT MEETING WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED, NOTWITHSTANDING SERIOUS OTUBREAK OF COFFEE RUST IN NICARAGUA, WHICH
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IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES AND WHICH IS

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SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL EMERGENCY MEETING (REFTELS A & B). MINISTER INDICATED THAT NICARAGUA WOULD BE GREATLY HONORED IF US SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE COULD ATTEND. HE SAID TRANSLATION SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED IF NEEDED. (SENGELMANN INCIDENTALLY, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON DEC. 6-8 IN CONNECTION WITH MEAT IMPORT NEGOTIATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, REFTELS C & D.)

3. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT AN UNNAMED HIGH-LEVEL USDA OFFICIAL, WHO PLANNING TO COME TO EL SALVADOR TO SIGN MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH OIRSA (REGIONAL AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SANITATION) FOR ERADICATION MED FRUIT FLY, MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT TRIP TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ATTENDING CIRSA MEETING IN MANAGUA, AND THAT USDA OFFICIAL FROM MEXIC
O
IS ALSO COMING TO MANAGUA.

4. EMBASSY CERTAIN THAT GON AND GUESTS FROM OTHER CIRSA-MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD BE PLEASED IF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WERE TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO DECEMBER 14-15 MEETING. NONETHELESS, WISH TO POINT OUT THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN AND OTHER DELEGATES MAY WELL UTILIZE MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR SOMEONE AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT HIM, TO EXPRESS THEIR STRONG VIEWS ON US MEAT IMPORT POLICIES--NOTWITHSTANDING ANY AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN REACHED EARLIER IN WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, CENTRAL AMERICAN MINISTERS MIGHT MAKE FERVENT PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING COFFEE RUSE.

5. USDA OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR THEBERGE WHO IS IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION AND WHO MAY BE REACHED THROUGH NICARAGUAN DESK IN STATE.
PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR OTHER USDA OFFICIAL COMING.
RUBENSTEIN

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